

BILL SUMMARY

BILL NO. H. 3695

TITLE: An act making appropriations for the fiscal year 2011 to provide for supplementing certain existing appropriations and for certain other activities and projects.

SPONSOR: Representative Brian S. Dempsey

COMMITTEE: House Committee on Ways and Means

PRIOR HISTORY: Filed by Governor and referred to House Committee on Ways and Means, August 29, 2011.

SUMMARY:

Sections 4, 13, 14: Amends chapters 7A and 62D of the MGLs by adding a new section 19 to allow the Comptroller to enter into an agreement with the Secretary of the Treasury to participate in a reciprocal treasury offset program for the collection of any debts owed to the commonwealth from federal payments to vendors, contractors and taxpayers.

Section 5: Amends section 2RR of chapter 29 of the MGLs to allow the Director of Career Services to incur obligations not exceeding the most recent revenue estimate in order to more consistently issue workforce training grants to employers.

Section 6: Amends section 32 of chapter 29 of the MGLs to require the timely cashing of checks issued by the commonwealth.

Sections 7, 8: Amends section 2 of chapter 30A of the MGLs to require small business impact statements be filed with the notice of public hearing as opposed to the current language which requires that the impact statement be included in the notice itself.

Sections 9, 10: Amends section 108L of chapter 41 of the MGLs to allow eliminate Quinn Bill benefits for state police officers in compliance with a recently ratified collective bargaining agreement with SPAM that rolls educational pay incentives into the officers' base compensation.

Sections 11, 12, 15, 16, 97, 98: Expands the low income housing tax credit for two years in order to account for the HOPE 6 grants matching grants awarded by the federal government.

Sections 17, 93: Clarifies how a school district is to be assessed for children attending innovation schools.

Sections 18, 94: Amends section 35 of chapter 123 of the MGLs to increase the maximum discretionary commitment time for persons addicted to controlled substances.

Section 19: Amends the definition of "eligible individual" in Section 1 of chapter 176J of the MGLs to allow persons to purchase preferred plans when their employer provides a less adequate plan.

Sections 20, 21, 43: Amends sections 6 and 11 of chapter 176J of the MGLs to allow the commissioner of insurance to issue waivers to the disapproval rate process for carriers who receive 80% or more of their income from government programs.

Section 22: Allows DCF to access CPCS income eligibility to determine Title IV-E of the Social Security Act eligibility which provides reimbursements for the costs of children in foster care and support for adoptive parents, and also expands the number of protections for children in the foster care system. Income eligibility must be done for DCF to qualify for reimbursements.

Section 23: Chapter 2 of the resolves of 2010 is amended by extending the date of the autism commission from September 28, 2011 to January 31, 2012.

Section 24: Amends chapter 192 of the acts of 2007 to make official the MA Service Alliance's administration of the Commonwealth Corps, which is already unofficially in place.

Sections 25-41, 45-61: Accounting change to Highway fund accounts appearing in chapter 131 of the acts of 2010 and chapter 68 of the acts of 2011.

Section 42: Increases the retained revenue amount for Bristol County Sheriff.

Section 44: Extends the Charles River Quality Commission's report date from November 1, 2011 until November 1, 2012.

Section 62: Amends the GAA to reflect changes to the trial court administration and require notification to the General Court before court closures or session closures take place.

Sections 63-65: Amends the GAA to change the trial court retained revenue accounts.

Section 66: Funds the court-appointed special advocate program at the same percentage of the overall juvenile court funding that was in place in fiscal year 2009.

Section 67: Would clarify the lottery cannot spend more than \$200,000 on gambling addiction treatment programs, not advertising for such programs.

Section 68: Allows the Workers Compensation balance to be forwarded to the next fiscal year.

Section 69: Increases the retained revenue amount of civil service.

Section 70: Allocates money from EEC to develop a kindergarten readiness assessment system.

Section 71: Provides that funds may be expended to implement SAVE systems.

Section 72-76: Amends the funding mechanism for DHCFP and clarifies the procedure for the implementation of the MMIS system with the MA Hospital Association.

Section 77: Clarifies the GAA to state that funds may be expended to reimburse municipalities for the cost of transporting students to schools in another district.

Section 78: Funds for the Office of Performance Management may be expended through August 31, 2012.

Sections 79-80: Amends the GAA to ensure that federal funds are maximized in order to fund a new class of state police.

Sections 81: Amends the GAA to allow the department of corrections to retain revenue.

Section 82: Provides that the Secretary of Education or a designee shall serve as chair of the Special Commission on College Scholarships.

Section 83: Makes a technical correction to the local aid reversion language in the GAA.

Section 84: Provides that the executive office of health and human service shall provide each beneficiary age 65 and over a one-time notice of options available for enrollment in voluntary programs including Program of All Inclusive Care for the Elderly plans, MassHealth Senior Care Options, Frail Elder Home and Community Based Waiver Program and other voluntary elected benefits to which the beneficiary is entitled to supplement or replace their MassHealth benefits.

Section 85: Authorizes certain transferability between CPCS accounts.

Section 86: Provides that the balance remaining in Workforce Training Trust Fund shall not revert to the general fund but remain available for expenditure.

Section 87: Allows \$86,000 in costs to the Massachusetts developmental disabilities council to may be waived by the budget director of A&F..

Section 88: These sections would create an offset for the use of low income housing tax credits to fund the HOPE 6.

Section 89: This new fund would be used to invest in shovel ready infrastructure projects.

Section 90: Revives the special brain injury commission with a reporting date for the findings of December 31, 2011.

Section 91: The creative and innovative education commission, established in section 181 of chapter 240 of the MGLs, reporting date is extended until June 30, 2012.

Section 92: Transfers \$350 million into the Commonwealth Stabilization Fund.

Section 93: Creates a salary reserve for health and human service workers.

Section 94: Requires DPH to report on methods used to assess EEEV threats to the public health.